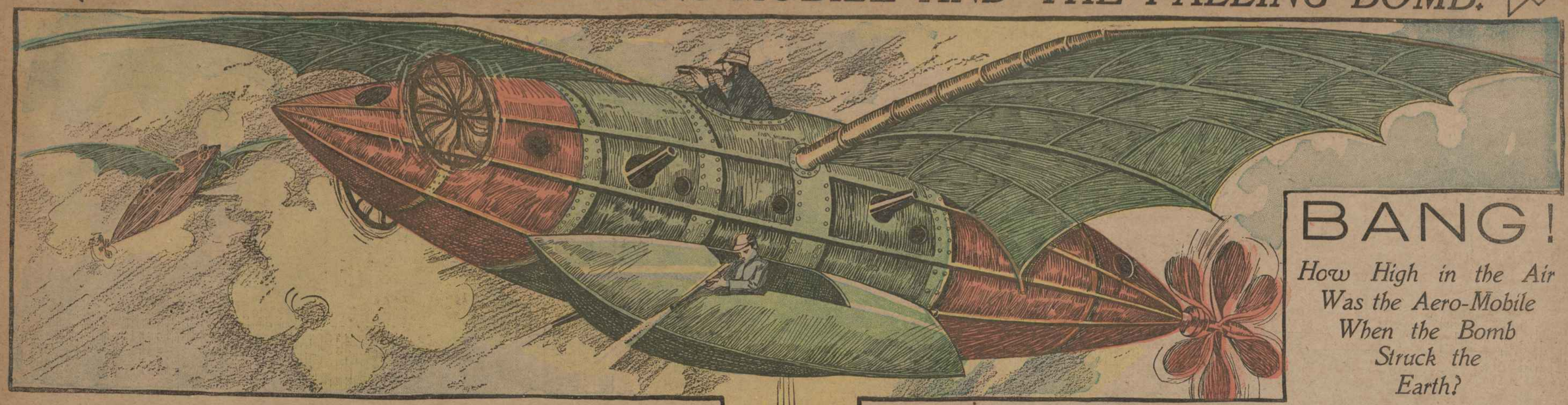
THE PUZZLE OF THE AERO-MOBILE AND THE FALLING BOMB.



BANG!

How High in the Air Was the Aero-Mobile When the Bomb Struck the Earth?

OF course, in all well-regulated families implicit confidence is inculcated in Mother Goose's description of the successful navigation of the air on broomsticks or trained geese, to say nothing of the well authenticated aerial flight of the cow to the moon, and we children of older growth pin our faith in Mother Shipton's prophecy that the lost art will be restored.

There are at least a hundred well-known scientists experimenting at the present moment with the application of the latest advances in science. A distinguished Swiss savant has discovered a new gas many times lighter than hydrogen. Herr Arthur Stenzel, of Hamburg, who patterns after the movements of the stork, is utilizing the buoyant qualities of aluminum, while Professor S. P. Langley's great war aerodrome, which was advocated as a more effective peace machine than the congress at The Hague, utilizes engines propelled by liquid air, while a dozen enterprizing builders are preparing to let or sell upon approved instalment plans aero-automobiles for pleasure or war purposes.

With the recognized efficacy of ballooning in war and in the field of scientific investigation, the importance of the subject must be apparent to every one and is worthy of the serious attention of our inventors, and it was with this idea in view, while the different theories and methods are being discussed all over the world, that I wished to call the attention of our puzzlists, scientists and mathematicians to a curious little problem which was propounded over 500 years ago, and which shows that the modern conception of a flying machine antedates the ducking which Rasselas got in the lake.

The following lines were published over 300 years ago, accompanied by the statement that they were of very ancient origin. I have never seen the answer, but it will be found to be as simple as it is instructive:

A wretch, who spurned the virtuous path below,
To heaven above by other means would go.
He by mechanic art a great bird made
With powerful wings which swiftly played.
"What Jacob did," said he, "why should not I?
For naught is gained by those who fear to try."
Upon his bird he rapidly ascends
And waves adieu to all terrestrial friends.
Now wrapped in clouds, unpierced by human eyes,
And now environed with azure skies.
But soon he lets a great war-bomb fall down,
Which strikes the earth, and the exploding sound
Ascends his ear in thrice the length of time
The bomb was falling from that height sublime.

Now tell, ye sages, if he to heaven got,
Or how far soared he from this earthly spot?

The poem, of which the above is but an extract, was evidently a satire upon the times, and was doubtless a hit upon some inventive genius who was proposing to destroy the enemy or to open communications with adjacent planets. Nevertheless, the problem is a good one, susceptible of easy and satisfactory solution. It is well known that a heavy body falling from a state of rest descends in the first second through a space of sixteen and a half feet, which increases according to a rule of geometrical progression, while sound moves with the uniform velocity of 1,142 feet per second. It is an easy matter to arrive at the distance which the writer has described even though we may have some doubts regarding its possibility. But to encourage the young mathematicians and puzzlists the usual prize of $5 will be given for the best answer received within two weeks.

SAM LOYD, New York Journal.

Puzzle of the Carrier Pigeons.

HERE is an odd little puzzle which will tax the ingenuity of our young puzzle friends as it did the skill of a pigeon man, who accomplished in a practical way the fact, which does not work out readily in figures. It seems that he had twenty-three carrier pigeons, which, according to custom, he intended to sell off in pairs, but that odd one made it impossible to do so. Wholesale dealers, however, purchase in lots, odd or even as the case may be, taking all there may happen to be in a certain coop. He got a wholesale dealer and, in order to compel him to take the odd one or the entire lot, so as to leave him the balance in even pairs, he divided his twenty-three birds into four coops, with an odd number in each coop, so that the customer had the choice of purchasing any one of four lots, but in each case would be compelled to take an odd number, which would leave the pigeon man an even number of pairs of birds, which he could retail off to better advantage, as it is customary to sell off a stray odd one at half price. Now the puzzle is to show how the fancier divided his twenty-three pigeons into four coops, and as already intimated, it is a problem which calls for considerable ingenuity.

HOW DID THE FANCIER DIVIDE HIS TWENTY-THREE PIGEONS INTO FOUR COOPS?

SOME PROBLEMS IN PUNCTUATION.

THE omission of a comma or period from its proper position in a sentence has often produced a puzzle which required a judge and jury to solve correctly. Telegrams not infrequently come in puzzle form, so that the one who receives them has the choice of two conflicting messages, or, as sometimes happens, is baffled completely to discover any intelligible construction whatever. By way of illustration, let us see who can properly punctuate the following Russian proverb:

That that is is that that is not is not.

After which, endeavor to make sense out of the following frantic endeavor of a young lady to make clear a remark which she had just made:

I mean that that I say is that that that that that man says is not that that that that man should say.

She always had the happy faculty of expressing herself in just some such way, which was very puzzling until one got used to it. In reply to the question as to whether they got all the strawberries they wanted to eat down on the farm, she replied: "We can't eat what we can can, but what we can't can we can," which was very prettily put as giving a good idea of the situation of affairs down on the farm.

"But soon he lets a great war bomb fall down,
Which strikes the earth with an exploding sound.
Now tell, ye sages, if he to heaven got,
Or how far soared he from this earthly spot?"

ANSWER TO THE GOLF PUZZLE.

IN our description of the golf problem, it was explained for the benefit of the few, if such there be, who know less about this exciting game than ourself, that there are nine holes, supposed to be located respectively 300 yards, 250, 200, 325, 275, 350, 225, 375 and 400 yards apart.

As any two distances would effect the object in a greater or less number of strokes many answers were received ranging in from 27 to 300 strokes, but the best answer, which wins the $5 prize, comes from MISS HELEN PIERSON, of Water Mill, L. I., who has made quite a record this season on the Shinnicock links. She says: "After plodding experimentally around the course many times, always having in mind how much pleasanter and more invigorating it was to be plodding around the links than to be swinging indolently in a hammock watching the others plodding around, as they think how much more indolent it is to swing in a hammock, I hit upon the distance of 125 yards for the 'drive' and 100 yards for the 'approach,' which will win the game as follows: Three approaches to the first hole, two drives to the second, two approaches to the third, two approaches and one drive to the fourth, three drives and one approach to the fifth, two drives and one approach to the sixth, one drive and one approach to the seventh, three drives to the eighth and four approaches to the finish.

Answer to the Parrot Problem.

IN that odd title piece of puzzledom picked up at the Zoo, where a quick-witted polly sprang a clever conundrum upon his too loquacious companion, it was told that his too previous friend spied that loose screw in her perch and asked. "Why don't you get that screw fastened?" "Don't need fastening," replied the other; "it was put so on purpose to make both alike."

"How are they both alike? I don't see it," says the green parrot.

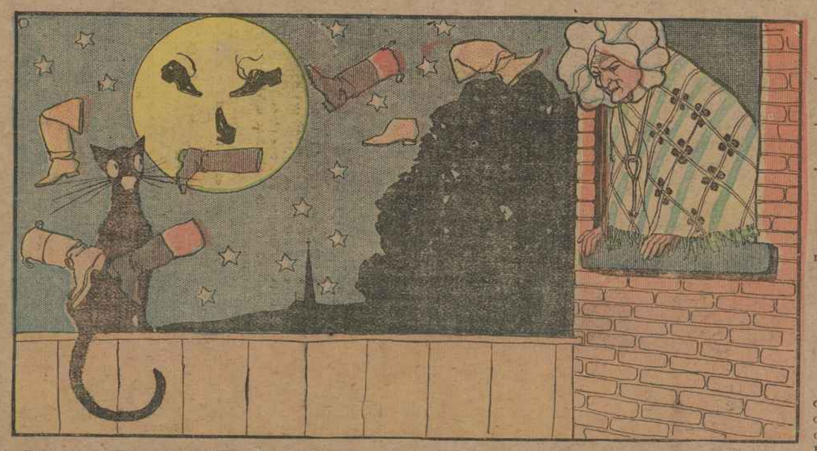
"Because the one is in secure and the other is insecure," says the smart bird, which raised a great laugh in the hyena cage and started the fun all around. A pert little chimpanze, who heard of the puzzle, thought he had solved it because, as he afterward said, "On S T is the best poll I see," which was very clever, but gave offence to the parrot.

A somewhat similar design, suggestive of "honest tea being the best policy," was adopted some years ago by a tea merchant, and upon it being pirated by a rival firm the matter was brought into court, and the writer called as a witness, when the fact was developed that neither of the merchants had seen the point in the charade—which induced the Judge to decide that neither of the claimants had any title to the design.

NO. 6.---STORY BOOK CHARADES FOR LITTLE ONES.

NAME.

AGE, ADDRESS.



In This Picture There Are Indicated the Titles of Four Stories Well Known to Children. The Little Boy or Girl Who First Sends in the Correct Solution to This Charade Will Receive a Prize of $5 in Cash. Send All Answers to Charade Editor, New York Journal

MASTER RAY MILLER, a little boy residing at No. 90 Henry street, New York City, is the winner of Charade No. 5.

While a great many letters came in for this contest, Ray appears to be the only one who has solved the correct answer.

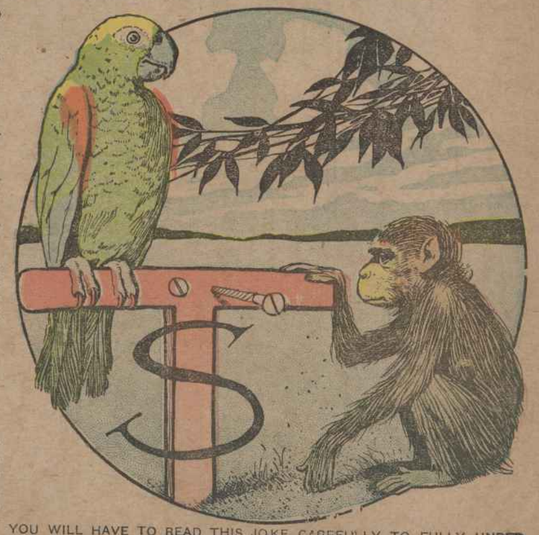
Many letters sent the Charade Editor show careful analysis, and there are many strange and interesting answers prepared. The children show a wide range of information in the matter of stories, fables and tales for youngsters.

DEAR EDITOR—I tried to win the prize several times, but was not successful, but I hope I am correct this time. These are the answers:

Prince and the Dragon.
Bluebeard.
Sinbad the Sailor.
Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

RAY MILLER,
90 Henry street, N. Y. City.

The Prince and the Dragon is indicated by the dragon issuing from the cave and the prince on horseback. The cave also suggests Ala Baba and the Forty Thieves. The great bird, the roc, indicates Sinbad, and the scimitar hanging to the belt of the prince suggests Blue Beard.—Editor.



YOU WILL HAVE TO READ THIS JOKE CAREFULLY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND IT